

4. The thicknesses and arrangement of the layers of carbonate and siliceous skeletal remains found on the ocean floor, formed by the accumulation of the shells of Foraminifera, and Radiolaria, and other planktonic organisms. A comparison of the thicknesses of such deposits with current rates of deposition of these skeletons in parts of the ocean floor where there is no evidence of rapid deposition or recent disturbance should be meaningful. Of special significance are the pelagic sediments found on the tops of certain seamounts and abyssal hills, ~~which~~ which are far enough from land masses that the rate of deposition is not affected by currents bringing sediments from those land masses. ⁴

5. Present-day burial and fossilization of calcareous plant and invertebrate animal skeletons in marine coastal environments, on the sea floor, and in the subsurface of modern reefs. ⁵

6. The rate of dolomite formation in modern marine environments, combined with a study of ancient formations which exhibit alternating dolomite (dolostone) and calcium carbonate (limestone) strata. ⁶

7. Multilayered deposits of the (water soluble) evaporites anhydrite (Ca SO_4) and salt (Na Cl), which often not only alternate with each other, but also alternate with (relatively insoluble) calcium carbonate layers. The Castile Formation of west Texas and southeastern New Mexico is one such deposit, the thickness being in excess of 2,000 feet in some places, including approximately 200,000 calcium carbonate-anhydrite "couplet" layers. ⁷